

11 JUL 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for National Foreign Assessment
FROM: Director of Central Intelligence
SUBJECT: Soviet Airlift Capability

The first two articles in the attached copy of the London Economist "Foreign Report" concern Soviet airlift capability. One of these days I think it would be useful to produce a paper on comparative airlift capabilities between the United States and the Soviet Union. I have two reasons for suggesting this:

a. First, the capability of Soviet airlift was well demonstrated in Ethiopia. Its potential is something that should be well understood by our decision-makers.

b. This could be a useful step towards the process of doing better "comparative analyses" (as opposed to "net assessments"). Starting with something like airlift may be easier than starting with tactical aircraft. It seems to me that with our superb graphics department we could put together some simplified but meaningful charts on what the Soviets could expect to do with their airlift, or perhaps charts of comparative capabilities to lift various weights or volumes over various distances.



STANSFIELD TURNER

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Attachment

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10 JUL 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: NIO for Strategic Programs

FROM: Director of Central Intelligence

What is our view on whether the Soviets in fact have a "cold-launch" reload capability for any of their ICBMs?



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